

A Newspaper Devoted to the Welfare of All Workers by Hand or Brain

Howard K. Falk,  
Dept. Social Science,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

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## THE WATERWORKS' STRIKE

ON June 1st, 1919, the industrial sea in Montreal presented a calm, unbroken surface. Here and there the even tranquility was broken by ripples that came only to disappear again. The only agitation worthy of notice came from the water works crowd. The situation was exceedingly simple. A very few men employed by the city in the most important branch of the service were very much under-paid. As the cost of existence commonly referred to as the "high cost of living" had been steadily increasing, these men declared that they could no longer exist, and that they could not fulfil their duty to the corporation of Montreal, unless the city would agree to pay them enough money so that the necessities of life could be purchased. The men presented their case to the Commission by letter, then followed the communication by sending delegations to acquaint the commissioners with the full facts of the dilemma in which they found themselves. Thus it is quite apparent that the employees of the water works followed correct methods in presenting their grievance. There is no sin of omission honestly chargeable against their conduct.

Then followed a period of silence, the impenetrable silence of Old Egypt. The city and its people rambled and rushed on. The stock exchange was a bedlam of excitement. Industry, intense upon production, filled the very air with its roar. The storm was gathering. The black spots, the gloom falling on the industrial sea, presaged the coming storm. No one saw and no one heard. There was no one at the helm. The ship was rudderless.

To add considerable zest to the situation, grave enough as it was, the newspapers of Montreal inaugurated with startling suddenness a new and exasperating policy with reference to labor matters. One influential journal, *The Gazette*, flooded the country with a booklet containing all sorts of editorial tirades against labor. Others attacked the Minister of Labor and labor leaders in general, while all vied with one another in twisting and distorting coal and steel strike news until trade unionists fairly groaned under the injustice. As if to supplement the campaign to the last extreme of bitterness, the word

went around in labor circles that a suppression of all labor news was in order, and that advertising departments would no longer so much as print labor advertisements.

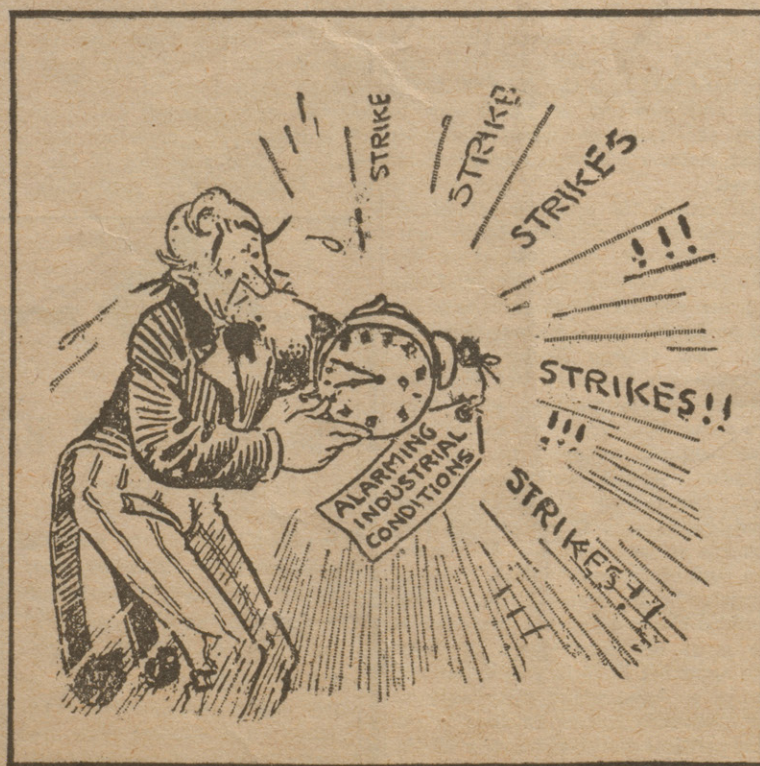
At this time the white caps could be plainly seen. The day had arrived when it was sound sense to put a few reefs in the sail. It required a sailor on this kind of a job, and at this period all sailors were ashore and all land-lubbers were afloat.

No matter how biased or partizan you may be, you will admit that the situation was very simple even at this time. If it was common sense to provide enough fuel to furnish enough coal to feed the boilers (and the commissioners did this with scrupulous care), then it follows that it was only common sense, sound sense, to provide

enough fuel for the human machines, who, in the nature of things, were absolutely requisite in order to keep the mechanical machines running. It has been well established that it requires at least \$2,000 a year for a man and his family to live, and since the Commission was only allowing \$85 to \$120 per month to the human machine, it was quite evident that there was a shortage of fuel for the human machine, and it was quite as essential to provide this fuel as it had been important to provide coal for the boilers. For seven long months the men quietly waited for the Commission to provide this fuel, but the fuel never came. The fuel for the mechanical machines, arrived post-haste, although these machines could not go on strike, but the human fuel never came. Something else did arrive, however, quite unlooked for by the city fathers, the soured press and the innocent and slumbering public. It came romping in on the stage like a mustang from Texas—The Crisis.

So, on the 1st of January, after seven months of sound slumber at the helm, everybody was awakened with a crash that there were breakers ahead and breakers aplenty. The situation is not quite so simple now. The Trades Council of Montreal, which is about the most conservative executive labor body in Canada, has flamed out into action. It passed a stinging resolution on January 11th, in which it demanded an immediate arbitration of the dispute and the appointment of a Royal Commission. Here is arbitration with a vengeance, isn't it? Arbitration! The very thing that the employers have all been agitating for.

The Trades Council also will inform the stately provincial



"HOW DO YOU STOP IT?"

Chicago Tribune.

(Continued on page 4)



# Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

A special issue of the Canada Gazette bears the announcement that Parliament will meet on February 26th which is rather a later date than usual. The opening is even six days later than last year, but there was an immediate adjournment then on account of the sudden death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The Cabinet and departmental officials have a space of seven weeks to make their preparations, compile their estimates and perfect their plans for defeating their numerous foes. Sir Robert will be far away from the scene of toil and strife, basking somewhere on the shores of the Spanish Main and thanking Providence that he has not to hold daily consultations with Messrs. Calder and Reid or listen to the glorious but sometimes unpopular plans of Mr. Rowell to "cleanse the Lord's vineyard of all nurseries of vice."

The burden which has brought the Premier to his present physical frailty is adjudged too great for any one man henceforth to undertake, so Sir George Foster will not assume with the Acting-Premiership the task of leading the House of Commons.

There had been a rumor that many Unionist ministers were to fare forth and penetrate to the furthest confines of the country where they would expound the many virtues and lofty accomplishments of the Coalition Government in the last two years. But this project has now been abandoned and the country will have to be content with a solitary oracular deliverance from the lips of Mr. Rowell which will be given at Port Hope in a few weeks.

The public will be more interested in what Mr. Rowell refrains from telling than in what he will tell. There will be a deal of fine sounding talk about "human brotherhood", "nobler paths of political righteousness" and "a finer idealism in politics", but it will scarcely carry much conviction from the lips of the man who as the Minister ultimately responsible for the recent activities of the Dominion police in raiding the library of the University of Alberta and confiscating well-known textbooks of Socialism, is engaged in a constant effort to suppress freedom of thought and speech which is only rivalled by the insensate raids directed from Washington by Attorney General Palmer. Mr. Palmer has been staging his illiberal follies for political purposes, he wants to convince the "interests" that he is a steadfast supporter of "law and order".

It is to be hoped that Mr. Rowell is not influenced by any such motive; he is more probably impelled by a genuine fear that the fires of real revolution which will end in irreligious anarchy are smouldering at his feet. But he ought to be well acquainted with religious history and should know that persecution has always fail-

ed of its object and encouraged the spread of the doctrines it aimed to suppress. Take the case of Gustavus Myers' History of Canadian Wealth. Its illuminating contents were only known to a few perverse spirits till it was banned from the country and copies were taken from the Regina Library. Now scores of people have had their attention drawn to it and become fired with the ambition to read it with the result that such copies as are available are in steady private circulation.

When Mr. Rowell goes to Port Hope to unfold his story, a body of his electors, if they have any sense of humor, should subscribe each a few cents and present him with a copy of the great work of Professor Bury of Cambridge University entitled "The History of Freedom of Thought". Mr. Rowell will doubtless assert that with the removal of the Order-in-Council's efficacy on January 1st, there was an end to all arbitrary measures of censorship, but this statement will be contrary to fact, as the amendments passed last session to the Criminal Code leave most tyrannical powers for the suppression of free speech and thought in governmental hands.

Mr. Rowell could also make his speech exceedingly interesting if he would enlighten his audience as to the real facts surrounding the late parliamentary crisis in which he played such a prominent part. But this he will not do, though doubtless, after his habit, he has kept a carefully compiled dossier of all the events and incidents connected with that momentous wrangle. There is, however, this to be said for Mr. Rowell, that he is not afraid of a public platform, and is aware that it is the duty of Ministers and members of Parliament to give the electorate some education upon matters of current political interest.

Of course the oratorical standards of most of the Cabinet do not surpass those of vice-regents of the Daughters of the Empire, and the average country auctioneer pursuing his profession would be more interesting. Sir George Foster and Mr. Meighen are the only two first-rate speakers in the Cabinet. But there are some Ministers who openly profess complete contempt for the arts of platform and parliamentary oratory. Gentry like Messrs. Calder and Reid like to work at nights with dark lanterns at their politics. Mr. Calder is a sort of modern "Black Laird of Ormiston" in public life. That gentleman was a famous character at the court of Mary Queen of Scots who appeared little in public but was always on hand where dirty work at the crossroads had to be done in the then political world and a few of the Queen's enemies had to be settled with.

Last summer Mr. Carvell was doubt-

ful whether the new Parliament buildings would be ready for the next session, but in the autumn Mr. Sifton announced the outlook to be more promising and Parliament will meet in its magnificent new quarters. They will be far from completely finished, but sufficient accommodation will be available for the session to be held, and even if there is a little preliminary discomfort, the luxuries which are eventually to follow will be all the more appreciated. The Senate Chamber will not be ready for immediate use, but quarters will be found for our venerable sages in one of the larger committee rooms.

The cost of the new buildings has been prodigious, far beyond the original estimate, but it is admitted by all who have had an opportunity of inspecting them that they are a credit to the genius of the architects who have done their work exceedingly well and have given the Canadian Parliament a home of noble beauty and grandeur which should, if external circumstances can elevate the soul, conduce to its better behavior.

The old Parliament building was polluted with the memory and stains of many horrible crimes, political and financial, committed by its occupants against the people of Canada. A well-known journalist who visited Ottawa at intervals used to say he never saw the flag on the Parliament Buildings flaunting itself bravely in the breeze like other flags; it was always drooping limp and sadly, as if ashamed at the misdeeds which were being perpetrated beneath the shadow of its folds. Let us hope and pray that the new home of Parliament will witness a deep change of spirit and temper on the part of those that dwell therein. It would be better if a completely new House of Commons had been the first to occupy the new buildings, but this end may be achieved ere they are completely finished.

However, it will be a great relief to both members and officials of the House to escape from the Victoria Museum where they have been temporarily caged since 1916. The quarters were cramped and there was an atmosphere of crowding and discomfort. The acoustics of the Commons Chamber were deplorably bad

and only the very clearest speakers, or such as were endowed with throats of brass, could hold the attention of the whole house. Cries of "louder" were continually reverberating through the House. One result of this condition was that members found debates, of which they missed large portions, exceedingly dull and would not stay in House. The attendance has grown steadily worse each session as it advanced and has often been disgracefully bad. The hearing properties of the new Chamber are first-class as the result of the adoption of a special process in its construction, and members will have no excuse for only issuing from their rooms at the sound of the division bell.

One difficulty will arise in connection with the seating accommodation of the new Chamber. It only makes provision for two parties. In the Museum there were actual cross benches which were adorned last session by Mr. Crerar and his followers. Next session they will have to pre-empt for themselves one or other flank of the opposition benches. The Irish members in the British House used invariably, whether Tories or Liberals were in power, to occupy a certain sector of the opposition benches. It was suggested to Mr. Carvell when the seating arrangements were being planned that he should have them made in circular form to afford a proper neutral location for an independent crossbench group, but being a faithful disciple of the old party system he turned a deaf ear to the suggestion. The Museum will be restored to its proper functions but there are unkind cynics who suggest that the Senate should be kept there in perpetuity as their most fitting habitation.

The address in reply to the speech from the throne will be moved by Mr. Hume Cronyn of London, Ontario, and seconded by Mr. McGregor of Pictou. The latter is a very ordinary backbencher, but Mr. Cronyn is one of the outstanding private members in the House, and it is a mystery why he has not been asked long before this to join the Cabinet. Not only is he an able financier but he is a student and thinker, and his opinions, too rarely delivered, are always worth listening to.

If the Government choose to embark on it, there is an ample field for legislative activity but they will likely confine themselves to absolutely imperative measures.

Mr. Ballantyne is exceedingly proud of his shipping policy and as he has close affiliations with divers financial magnates who are interested in the prosperity of steel and shipping companies, it will not be his fault if a new shipping programme is not produced next session. Already there are signs in the press of the skilful propaganda which precedes such enterprises. Roseate pictures are being drawn of the immense advantages which would accrue to us if we possessed a national fleet of passenger ships in addition to our freight carriers.

One measure which should be passed this session is a Franchise Bill. The War Times Election Act has expired

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and nothing has been devised to take its place except a temporary measure passed by agreement for the holding of by-elections. There can be no appeal to the people of Canada until a new Federal Franchise Act is passed, and it should be one of the first measures tackled by the Government. It was expected last session but was put off, and now there are rumors that it may be once again postponed. If there is no machinery available for holding a Federal election, it will be a good excuse for staving off events which might lead to one. But, as the Manitoba Free Press points out, the whole political situation is so unsettled that an election might come out of a sudden crisis at any moment. Two or three deaths of some of the older members of the Cabinet would almost make it certain. In its opinion, which is shared by many other people, Parliament and the Cabinet are deliberately evading their responsibilities if they fail at the forthcoming session to pass a good Franchise Act, which alone can make a general election possible at any moment. Meanwhile, Mr. Mackenzie King has begun a course of education for the Canadian people in the principles of Liberalism and the main items of the Liberal platform. His opening speech at Newmarket, in North York, the scene of many of his illustrious grandsire's conflicts, was scarcely calculated to set the heather on fire. Like Mr. Rowell's orations, it was full of magnificent sentiments, but left the Canadian public little wiser as to what Mr. King's actual plans for our regeneration are. However, he has promised to enlighten us concerning these in the speeches which he will deliver during the coming week in the Maritime provinces, at Halifax, Charlottetown and St. John. He will be accompanied on his tour by Mr. Ernest Lapointe, who has a practical mind and a fine grasp of the realities of politics.

Mr. King has shown great wisdom in the selection of the officials for the Liberal organization at Ottawa. For the publicity work he has secured Mr. John Lewis, one of the best known and ablest of Canadian journalists, who has had long experience as editorial writer on the Toronto Star and Globe, and as general organizer he has chosen Mr. Andrew Haydon of Ottawa, who is easily the most progressive of the younger spirits of the Liberal party and is likely to breathe the new life into the organization.

### THE TEST OF A MAN

"The place to take the true measure of a man is not the forum or the field, not the market place or the amen-corner, but at his own fireside. There he lays aside his mask and you may judge whether he's imp or angel, king or cur, hero or humbug. I care not what the world says of him, whether it crown him with bays or pelt him with bad eggs; I care never a coper what his reputation or religion may be; if his babes dread his home-coming and his better half swallows her heart every time she has to ask him for a five dollar bill, he's a fraud of the first water, even though he prays night and morn till he's black in the face, and howls hallelujah till he shakes the eternal hills. But if his children rush to the front gate to greet him, and love's own sunshine illumines the face of his wife when she hears his footfall, you may take it for granted that he's true gold, for his home's a heaven and the humbug never gets that near the great white Throne of God. I can forgive much in that fellow mortal who would rather make men swear than women weep; who would rather have the hate of the whole he-world than the contempt of his wife—who would rather call anger to the eyes of a King than fear to the face of a child."—Philip Brunn.

Mr. King ought also to be very happy by reason of a good turn which Sir Robert Borden's last act in Canada did him. The Unionist scribes had long planned to exploit Mr. King's connection with the Rockefeller Foundation and paint Mr. King at the next election as the subservient tool of the wicked Rockefeller family, who would at once hand Canada over to the tender mercies of the Standard Oil Co. But now Sir Robert, in giving thanks for the recent gift of \$5,000,000 from John D. Senior for a medical research, testifies to the noble purposes and beneficent humanitarian ideals of the Rockefeller family. If Mr. King ever finds himself attacked for this connection, he can wave in the face of his critics the clean bill of health the Premier has given him. It is clear proof that Sir Robert is more of a statesman than a politician—a real politician would not have destroyed so valuable an electioneering weapon for his party.

There is much lamentation in Unionist circles over this gratuitous folly and some loyal Tories see in it final proof that Sir Robert has reverted to the Liberalism of his youthful days and is determined to ruin both the Tory and Unionist parties ere he passes from the stage.

J. A. S.

Why All Who Believe In Education  
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Of Canada

and

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Because to establish such a system it is necessary to get rid of all class distinctions and privileges, and bring effectively within the reach of every boy and girl the training of which he or she is capable.

Because while the other parties have shown that they will only tinker with educational reform, the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association is pledged to support all educational plans and objects, municipal, provincial and federal, where the evident purpose is to advance the standard of education on a par with the most enlightened and progressive systems in force in any part of the world.

Because the Association stands for compulsory education.

Because at least one out of every six of the children attending the elementary schools are suffering from physical defects that can be cured, and the Association urges free medical treatment for all children and young persons attending elementary, secondary and continuation schools.

Because the Association demands the payment to teachers, in place of the miserable pittance which many of them now receive, of wages suitable to the importance of their work.

Because the Association refuses to sacrifice the interests of the children to the exploiters of Child Labor.

Because the Association stands for free, secondary education in High Schools and other institutions, and a more advanced system of continued education than as yet prevails in Canada.

Because the Association stands for the genuine opening of the universities, now used for the most part by the sons and daughters of the privileged classes, to all who are qualified to take advantage of a university education. As steps towards this, it advocates provision of scholarship and maintenance allowances.

Because a real democracy is impossible without a democratic system of education; because the monopoly of higher education is the formation of many other monopolies; and because the Association intends to make character and intelligence—not income or social position—the sole passport to all advantages of education.

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## It Takes \$2,200 to Care for a Family of 5

(The Railroad Trainman)

Provided, of course, that you get it, if not, then anything short of that sum must suffice until the theoretical arm-chair philosophers have reduced the cost of living and brought the family with the necessary income to a higher standard of living and the rest of us closer to the "irreducible minimum", meaning thereby the lowest amount on which a family can live decently.

We fell for a statement some months ago that came out with the supposed approval of the War Labor Board and quoted it repeatedly to prove that the lowest safe and sane amount on which American workmen could be saved from becoming a "radical red" was \$150 a month, and when we got all excited over the "governmental authority" that fixed the "irreducible minimum" and based our arguments for higher pay on what the War Labor Board had declared, we discovered that while the statement was quoted as coming from the representatives of the workmen and was not made unanimous by the other representatives, which naturally took, from the assertion of the need for the \$150, considerable of its force, but nothing from the need for \$150. This time we nail a statement of what it costs to live as it comes to us and as issued for the National Federation of Federal Employees by the Press Bureau of the Women's Trades Union League, 1423 New York avenue, Washington, D. C.

"Family needs of Government workers \$2,200," says Chief of Labor Statistics.

"Washington.—For the use of the Joint Congressional Commission on Reclassification of Civil Service Salaries, Dr. Royal Meeker, U. S. Commissioner of Labor Statistics has compiled a family budget showing the minimum cost of a "health and decency standard of living", in Washington, for the typical family of five. The total cost of this budget, Dr. Meeker's figures show, is a little more than \$2,200 per year.

"The cost of the same standard of living for a single woman, as ascertained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is \$1,083 a year; for a single man \$1,000. Dr Meeker itemizes the family budget as follows:

Food.....	\$ 773.93
Clothing—	
Husband.....	\$121.16
Wife.....	166.46
Boy (11 years)...	96.60
Girl (5 years) ..	82.50
Boy (2 years)...	47.00
Housing, fuel and light. . .	428.00
Miscellaneous.....	546.82
Total.....	\$2,262.47

"That this is actually an irreducible minimum is urged by officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees, who cite such

items in the budget as an allowance of a quart and one-quarter of milk per day for three little children; one and one-half pairs of shoes per year for the father of the family, and one winter union suit each per year for father and mother. Other items in the budget are similarly meager as to quantity."

It sorta looks as if father and mother would have to go to bed on wash days.

"The cost of the budget, Dr. Meeker states, is based upon the actual price of food, clothing, rent and fuel in Washington at the present time as ascertained by several agents of the Bureau of Labor Statistics who made separate shopping tours of the city, covering all the representative stores."

Employees of the Government do not need any more or any better living than the employees of anybody else. This is not a protest against the fixed cost of living for Federal employees, far from it. We are glad that so eminent an authority as Dr. Meeker has stated the facts with all the evidences possible from figuring.

These figure, coming as they do from an authoritative source, and we have every confidence in the statements issued by Dr. Meeker, we feel that there need be no hesitancy in claiming that railroad employees, now paid by direction of the Government, be recognized as entitled to that amount as a minimum wage and that the differ-

entials now existing be maintained.

The writer cannot agree that wages must be lower, based on the purchasing power of the dollar, until some one, with power to do so, reduces living costs. We used patiently to listen to the old argument that prices had to be advanced to meet labor increases; we never did agree to it for, as far as our observation carried us, the contrary was the case, and that has been so firmly established in the past three years that there is no sense in offering it now. Prices jumped above an average of eighty per cent in living costs, a few employees' wages went above that amount, but for the great majority there has been no comparative wage increase, and living costs are still advancing in the face of all the fine speeches and splendid suggestions to the contrary. Wages must go up unless costs come down, and we can stand quite some boost in every class of transportation service before we get to the "irreducible minimum" of \$2,200 per year on a wage basis of \$4.08 each eight-hour day, working six days a week without overtime. The average wage an engineer is given by the B. of L. E. is not above \$2,400 a year, and an engineer is supposed to amount to something as an employee; the wage of the rest of the service is considerably lower, far below the amount fixed as absolutely necessary to maintain a family of five persons, not alone at Washington, but everywhere else.

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## THE WATERWORKS' STRIKE

(Continued from page 1)

powers that be, that unless there is arbitration and the appointment of a Royal Commission there will be most likely a general strike in the city of Montreal. It is true that it will require a two-thirds vote of the labor unions in order to call a general strike, but if this vote is ever taken, smug conservatives in Montreal will be shocked to discover that the vote will not be a two-thirds vote, but in all likelihood will register that at least nine-tenths of the rank and file of labor will approve a general strike, thanks to the persistent newspaper campaign carried on against organized labor.

A general strike in the city of Montreal would be a terrible catastrophe. It would visit fearful hardships upon all classes. If it comes, it will be due to the obstinacy, the inefficiency and the utter inadequacy of our Board of Commissioners. In my opinion, it is high time that the brakes be put on some of our mischief-makers, and that a citizen's committee be formed to deal fearlessly with this situation. In its present stage twenty-four hours can suffice to clear the atmosphere and to establish industrial peace. Justice, simple, clean, untainted justice to these men, the strikers at the water works, will bring us sound, safe peace. Injustice, partizan politics, pride and arrogance, will hurl us into the fiery pit, and all will be blasted and seared with its consuming flame. This is the time and this is the place, and this is the real burning need.—Justice.

(Newspaper reports which stated that the resolution of the Trades and Labor Council condemned the Montreal Commission and asked for a return of the old system, are absolutely incorrect.)

George Pierce.

## THE WIDOW'S SPITE

The Parson—"Mrs. Smithers seems very cross with me—didn't you notice she almost cut me?"

The Friend—"I'm not surprised!"

The Parson—"But why?"

The Friend—"Don't you remember when you were preaching her husband's funeral sermon you said he had gone to a better home?"—London Passing Show.



## HENRY FORD SAYS THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

When two unreasonable parties refuse to reach an agreement, their quarrel should be confined to themselves alone; it should be prevented from doing harm to others. But when two reasonable parties cannot come to agreement, it is time to look behind the scenes for a third party whose interest is to keep them quarrelling. This applies to labor disputes as well as other disputes. Sometimes both employer and employee are unreasonable and do not seek agreement but conquest; in which case their unreasonableness ought not to be permitted to cause inconvenience or loss to the public. But there have been occasions when both employers and employees were reasonable enough to be able to reach an agreement, and were prevented by hidden influences.

It should not be forgotten for a single minute that though a strike may mean loss of money, time and peace of mind to all directly concerned—to workingman, manufacturer and public—it does not necessarily mean the same loss to everyone.

There are interests that make money out of certain kinds of strikes. If these strikes did not pay somebody, there would be fewer of them.

First, there is the justifiable strike—the strike for those proper conditions and just rewards to which the workingman is in all fairness entitled.

The pity is that men should be compelled to use the strike to get what is theirs by right. No American ought to be compelled to strike for his rights. He ought to receive them naturally, easily, as a matter of course.

These justifiable strikes are usually the employer's fault. Some employers are not fit for their job. Employment of men, direction of their energies, arranging that their reward shall be in honest ratio to their production and to the prosperity of the business—that is no small job.

An employer may be unfit for his job, just as a man at the lathe may be incompetent. The lathe man gets into trouble with his work, and so does the incompetent employer with his—one that he cannot handle.

The unfit employer causes more trouble than the unfit employee. You can change the latter to a more suitable job. But the former must usually be left to the law of compensation.

The justified strike, then, is one that need never have been called if the employer had done his work as he ought.

But there is a second kind of strike—the strike which may be named The Strike With a Concealed Design. In this kind of strike the workingmen made the tools of some hidden manipulator

who seeks his own ends through them. Whoever this manipulator may be, his designs will not stand the light.

To illustrate this kind of strike: Here is a great industry whose success is due to having met a public need, to its efficient and skilful methods of production, and to its known record for just treatment of its workmen. Such an industry presents a great temptation to speculators. If they can only gain control of it they can reap rich benefit from all the honest effort that has been put into it. They can destroy its beneficiary wage and profit-sharing, squeeze every last dollar out of the public, the product of the workmen, and reduce it to the plight of other business concerns which are run on these low principles.

Their motive may be the personal greed of the speculator, or they may wish to change the policy of a business whose example is embarrassing to employers who do not want to do what is right by their employees.

But how gain control? That is the speculator's problem. One of the simplest ways is The Strike With a concealed Design.

It works this way: The industry to be attacked cannot be touched from within, because its men have no reason to strike. So another method is adopted. The business in question may keep many outside shops busy supplying it with parts or material. If these outside shops can be tied up then the great industry may be crippled, and that is what the speculators want.

So strikes are fomented in the outside industries. Every attempt is made to curtail the factory's source of supplies. It is a simple game when once understood, and the public has no idea how often it is played.

Now, if the workmen of the outside shops knew what the game is, they would refuse to play it, but they don't know; they serve as the tools of designing capitalists without knowing it. There is one point, however, that ought to rouse the suspicions of workmen engaged in this kind of strike. If the strike cannot get itself settled no matter what either side offers

to do, it is almost positive proof that there is a third party, a hidden hand, interested in having the strike continue. That hidden influence does not want a settlement on any terms. Its whole profit is in the trouble and the continuance of the trouble.

If such a strike is won by the strikers, is the lot of the workmen improved? After throwing the industry into the hands of outside speculators, are the workmen given any better treatment or wages?

Who is most likely to work with the workingman along lines of progress and prosperity: the manufacturer whose home is where his plant is, whose reputation among his neighbors is dear to him, whose interest in his employers is born of acquaintance and daily fellowship?—or the outsider, the speculator, the profiteer, who does not know his men from iron spikes and whose only interest in the industry is to squeeze dollars out of it until it is dry?

That is the pity of some strikes which linger on and after settlements are possible—the deluded strikers are fighting the battles of cunning speculators and do not know it.

Then there is a third kind of strike—the strike that is provoked by the Money Interests for the purpose of giving Labor a bad name. The American Workman has always had a reputation for sound judgment. He has not allowed himself to be led away by every shouter who promised to create the millenium out of thin air. He has had a mind of his own and has used it. He has always recognized the fundamental truth that the absence of reason was never made good by the presence of violence.

In this way the American Workingman has won a certain prestige with his own people and throughout the world. Public Opinion has been inclined to regard with respect his opinions and desires.

But there seems to be a determined effort now being made to fasten the Bolshevik stain on American Labor, by inciting it to such impossible attitudes and such wholly unheard of actions as shall change public sentiment from respect to criticisms.

It is quite in keeping with higher disorderly elements that they should employ the lower disorderly

elements for the purpose of destroying the morals and reputation of the American Workingman. All the disorder does not originate with the workingman. Much of it comes from higher up.

The American Workingman's most valued asset is his reputation for cool-headed, balanced judgment and respect for law and order. If he loses that, what does he again?

But—and here is the point—if he does lose that, the powers that would exploit him and reduce him to the lowest form of wageslavery would be the gainers. Losing his good name, the American Workingman loses all: his enemies are the gainers.

It is time for us to ask some questions: If the workingman does not make money out of strikes, who does?

It is time for every striker to ask himself: Who stands to make money out of this strike? Who will get the chief benefit if we break down this industry? Whose game are we playing anyway?

The man who makes profit out of strikes, be he billionaire manipulator or self-seeking labor leader, is a menace to the nation, a traitor to the well-being of humanity, and the personal assailant of every workingman.

In the second and third kinds of the disorder which have been described here, the concealed speculator orders the strike; the dishonest labor leaders plans it; the rowdy element fans it into violence—and the honest misled workingman pays for it, and continues to pay!

Anyone who knows the American Workingman as he really and naturally is, must be convinced that he does not want to be the tool of evil designers who are not his friends and who cannot build prosperity. Some people make prosperity; other people sap it; the latter devitalize and destroy it.

There ought to be high wages everywhere—as high as the business will warrant; and any business that is serving the world and is efficiently managed will warrant it. There ought to be profit-sharing, too, that each man may be a partner and not merely a "hand".

But it is not the boss who makes high wages; it is the men. If the boss stands in the way of men getting what they earn, he is not fit to be boss. The day has come when such a man will not be able to keep workmen in his shop.

Once the boss picked out his men. Now men are able to pick out their boss.

Big wages are not philanthropy. Big wages are plain business rights.

The speculators who are always ready to stir up labor trouble are not interested in high wages. They are usually interested in hindering the man who pays high wages. They want to hurt him, to drive him out business. The American Workingman will not play that game, once he understands it.

Henry Ford.

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# When Is News Not News ?

## Meeting Addressed By Minister of Labor Gets Some Queers Twists In Montreal Gazette Report.

THE Montreal Gazette on January 8th printed a lengthy report of a meeting the previous night of the McGill Canadian Club and addressed by Senator Gideon Roberson, Minister of Labor.

The heading said: "Labor Minister Faced Hecklers. Fusilade of Questions Followed Address on Canada's Labor Situation. Some Red Sympathizers. Minister Advocated Adoption of Industrial Disputes Act by the Provinces."

One of the main items of the news is in the last sentence. The least important item gets the initial prominence. Three of the main news items get no attention at all. But the first sentence looks like a rap at the Minister of Labor, and the Gazette's love for the Minister could not be seen under a microscope. The members of the staff of the Gazette are naturally expected to conform to Gazette views in their work, whatever their private opinions may be. If a Gazette reporter had "played up" one of the main points of the meeting, which was the Minister's attack on the reactionary press (in which he included the Gazette by direct implication), and if the various other persons who superintend and censor the news in the Gazette office had let the report slip into print, what a lovely row would have followed!

The opening paragraph of the report as it actually appeared reads: "Senator Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, stirred up a hornets' nest last evening in the course of an address at Strathcona Hall to the McGill Canadian Club on 'The Labor Situation in Canada,' when he undertook to define the distinction between the legitimate labor union movement in Canada and the Revolutionary Socialist, or 'Red' element. In the course of his talk on this he discussed the Winnipeg strike disturbances at some length. It was evident that there were in the audience a number of sympathizers with the leaders of the trouble fomentors at Winnipeg, and at the conclusion of Senator Robertson's address, when questions were invited, he was subjected to a fire of criticism. As most of the questioners seemed to prefer making speeches on all sorts of international issues, including socialism in Italy,

Belgium and other countries, with in some quarters sympathy for the Russian revolutionary movement by the Soviets and Reds, Senator Robertson did not have much difficulty in winning the majority of the audience in his persistent pleas for the orderly methods of legitimate labor unions, rather than the hopes of the Bolshevik elements to overturn existing order by violent means."

The main features of the meeting had no relation to a "hornets' nest" as such an expression would be commonly understood. If the questions put to the Minister (following the Minister's own invitation) by only five persons, only two of whom might be termed critical, comprised a "hornets' nest", the hornet's

To begin with ninety per cent. of the 300 or so persons present were McGill students, and they might not care to be included in the Gazette's description. Of the remaining 30 persons or so, at least 16 were fairly well-known citizens who, also, might not care to be included in the description. This leaves about 14 persons, of whom 9 or 10 might have been of the so-called "Red" or "Bolshevik" element, judging by the trend of their public expressions at various times in the past. Even most of these never said a word or made any notable sign.

"A fire of criticism" from "most of the questioners" seems to imply a fairly large number of questioners primed with lots of nox shot. There were five questioners. One was a McGill student who asked if the Government had made any provision for employing students during the summer vacation. Nothing very stinging about that, surely! Another questioner was the Rev. Mr. Burke, who took a philosophic line and also made it clear that he was a constitutional evolutionist.

## THE GAZETTE HEADING

### AS IT WAS

#### Labor Minister Faced Hecklers

Fusilade of Questions Followed Address on Canada's Labor Situation

#### SOME RED SYMPATHIZERS

Minister Advocated Adoption of Industrial Disputes Act By the Provinces

### AS IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

#### Reactionary Press Brings Revolution

With Reactionary Employers Will Duplicate Russia Here, Says Labor Minister

#### GAZETTE LAMBASTED

Employers Cause 71% of Strikes; Arbitration Great Cure; Students Applaud; Some Critics

capacity for blistering has been grievously over-estimated. These questions were, in any case, a minor feature of the meeting, the four main features, from a news and community standpoint, being:—

(1) The Minister's statement that seventy-one per cent. of Canadian strikes were caused by employers refusing to listen to the representations of their employees;

(2) The Minister's advocacy of improved legislation for dealing with labor disputes by arbitration;

(3) The Minister's statement that if the policies of reactionary employers were to prevail, there would be revolution in Canada, for which the part played by the reactionary press would also be largely responsible;

(4) The practically unanimous approval of the Minister's address by those present, as evidenced by the long roll of applause given at the conclusion.

It was not evident that there were in the audience "a number of sympathizers with the leaders of the trouble fomentors at Winnipeg."

The three other questioners, including Mr. Philip Faughnan (an ex-reporter of the Gazette staff) and Mrs. Fenwick Williams, did take issue with the Minister on various points relating to the Winnipeg strike, though there was nothing very lurid or smashing about what any one of them said. The question period, indeed, was a comparatively tame affair, and, as said, a minor feature of the meeting as a whole. Newspaper reporters know that many a W.C.T.U. or charity society meeting has developed more heat.

The point of the great cause of strikes was left out of the Gazette report altogether. The point concerning the means for reducing labor troubles was dealt with at fair length, but thrown out of perspective. The summary of the Minister's remarks on reactionary employers and a reactionary press might be described as a fair news summary, also out of perspective.

Senator Robertson was obviously having a crack at the Gazette, as well as other papers, when he described some of the methods of the



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reactionary press, and the Gazette did not, of course, report the description of its own methods as given by the Minister who did not specifically name it but left no doubt as to identity in the minds of his hearers.

The Minister spoke, for instance, of a pamphlet published by the Gazette which was calculated to increase discord in the country. It contained a number of the Gazette's anti-labor editorials, which bristled with prejudices and distortions. He said that this pamphlet had been distributed amongst employers of labor, and that just prior to the opening of the industrial conference at Ottawa (called for the purpose of helping towards harmony) the representatives of the employers had been supplied with these pamphlets. Employers themselves had protested against the construction and the intentions of the pamphlets.

Newspapers reports are frequently accepted as records of facts as they transpired in their correct proportions, and this acceptance is not always justified. Even labor newspapers, paraphrasing reports from non-labor papers, unconsciously repeat the improper values of these reports. The news columns need a little watching.

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## The Waterworks' Heroes

A subscription list was opened in the Star the other day for the purpose of rewarding the two heroes who stuck to their posts at the waterworks when their comrades went on strike. The plan was proposed, and the subscription list led, by a "well-known citizen" who evidently does good by stealth and would blush to find it fame, as all publicly known of him in the connection is that his initials are "A. L." Several hundreds of dollars have been subscribed.

Citizens are informed that the two recipients of the bounty, whose names have not been published, were shocked at the idea of the dreadful calamity that would follow a strike; inspired by a sense of duty and responsibility to the community, they spurned the solicitations of their fellow-workers, and, like Casabianca, stood loyally and devotedly at the posts whence all but they had fled.

It is an epic in civic pride, and all the more remarkable because so rare in our civic history. Indeed, it is so remarkable that all should be clear about it before it is finally woven into the annals of our day. Having had the newspaper version of the thing, the version of the strikers is needed to confirm it. The strikers probably know these men well. Even if they regard them as opponents of their cause, which is quite likely, at least they will acknowledge them as honestly inspired by the high motives ascribed to them. That acknowledgement would complete the record. Without it, the record will be regarded as incomplete by all trade unionists and other persons who have given any serious thought to other strikes and know something of other heroes who stuck to their posts when their comrades struck. In those other strikes the heroes were nearly always men who sought to make personal capital out of the struggles and distress of their co-workers. Their loyalty, courage and high principles were much enlarged upon by employers and others who wished to break the strikes, and whose ideas and purposes they served for the time being. At heart even their employers often thought they were pretty poor specimens.

Their comrades seldom had any illusions about men who had so little sense of honor that they broke solemn pledges of brotherhood and allegiance to their comrades when these comrades struck for justice. They called them "scabs" or "rats". The words are descriptive throughout the civilized world of the lowest depths to which men may fall in the estimation of those who have shared their daily tasks. No amount of white-wash can cover up men regarded, by those who knew them best, as suppurating sores or marauders from the dungheap.

It may be that the case at the waterworks is the remarkable instance of exalted and unselfish devotion to the citizens it is said to be; but in view of somewhat similar developments of other strikes, most of which were campaign cookery very difficult of digestion, it is only fair to everybody concerned that the record should be completed.

K. C.

## Saving the Country, by Heck!

THERE are many persons in the country who are fine statesmen, and willing to admit it. Quite a lot of them record their admission in letters to the editor of the Montreal Herald, though why the Herald should have a monopoly of such talent is a question worthy of serious thought.

Amongst the latest statesmen to deliver their sage decisions from the Herald's rostrum is one who settles the waterworks' strike as easily and simply as rolling a chew of tobacco from one cheek to the other. He says that the strikers should be hanged or shot. The possibility that the strikers and their friends might be hanged if they'd be shot, and need to be shot through with paralysis before they could be hanged, is a detail not considered by the statesman, but then, of course, indifference to detail is quite statesman-like.

Another statesman writes thus about the high cost of living:—

To the Editor of Montreal Herald:

Sir,—As there are so many remarks passed in regard to high cost of living from the educated to the working class, I think that the people have gone crazy. If they want cheaper living, stop the strikes, give the ten hours a day labor, do away with the unions and cut down the wages. Some years ago, when living was cheap, a farmer paid \$15.00 a month and board, when he has to pay now \$50 and board, and hay was \$12.00 to \$15.00 when now it runs from \$30.00 to \$40.00 a ton. Same with other farm produce.

Again this land speculation which started some years ago bought up the farms and they are idle. Now let the Government tax all vacant land that was garden land, or force the companies to cultivate it. Now as there is no use of kicking at H. C. of L., let us put our shoulder to the wheel and see what we can do to reduce labor.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Chambly, Jan. 8, 1920.

Wonderful! So simple and direct! What would we do without a statesman of his capacity? Is it not the case that the "Letters to the Editor" column of the Herald is the real place to look for solution of the local and national unrest? Why wait for the slow-moving machinery of constitutional government? Let's have a little statesman-like revolution, and lots of nice, red blood spattered on the sidewalks!

K. C.

## Lancashire Old and New

THE politics of Ashton-under-Lyne in England were the subject of a despatch a few days ago on account of the fact that the Liberal organ in London, the Daily News, is advising the Liberals to withdraw and support the Labor candidate, as otherwise the coalition candidate may sweep in owing to the split of the two progressive forces. This particular borough has interested Canada in late years owing to the fact that Sir Max Aitken, now Lord Beaverbrook, fought and won the seat for the Conservatives. There is, in fact, in Montreal a number of people, engaged chiefly in the cotton industry, who form the "Old Ashtonian Association."

The writer's recollections go back to the "good old days"



of the latter part of the 'eighties and of life there under the old reign of Lancashire industrialism. At 5.30 a.m. there was a great clatter of feet, old and young, all shod with clogs, a form of footwear something like a French peasant's sabot, but with iron strips to make it wear well. At six o'clock the machinery of the huge cotton mills began to whirl and continued until about 5.30 or 6 o'clock in the evening. All the employees were "hands"; that was all that counted. There were old men and women of seventy to be seen, as well as boys and girls of nine ten and onward. The latter were (at that time) half-timers; that is, they rose at 5.30 a.m. and worked in the mills until noon, then went to school for the afternoon, and many a time in the elementary school one of these boys would fall asleep over his lessons, only to be wakened by a cut from a teacher's cane. In the main streets of this town, at almost every corner, there was a "public house" over which were flaring gas lamps, which in days when English towns were poorly illuminated, caused these gin palaces to stand out with an inviting look. Between the superheated and noisy mills and their drab and small houses, was it any wonder that on Saturday night up to midnight many of the "hands" spent a large part of their wages there? Yet not all, for among them were to be found the best supporters of the "chapel", since in that country the Church of England was generally held to be the place of worship for the rich and employing class.

Child welfare movements were unknown at that time; but there were individuals who recognized their duty to the community, and one was the Liberal member of parliament, who was landlord for one end of the town in which was the parsonage where the writer's father lived. For all who lived in that block of houses, houses with nine and ten spacious rooms well built and light, let at two and a half dollars a week, there was a public library, a public swimming bath, and two play grounds for children, all free. The Liberalism of that day stood for the political emancipation of the masses; but today the masses are pressing for something more, emancipation from unfair industrial conditions, and the writer was pleased to learn lately that with eight hour and other similar movements, the factory "hands" were no longer subject to the 5.30 a.m. call of the professional "knocker-up", nor is it possible, owing to advanced factory and education laws, for children to work as "half-timers", for they are required to work as "full-timers" in school. If Ashton has any appreciation of these ameliorations, it will not elect a coalitionist, whatever may be the personal merits of Lloyd-George.

## Schools as Social Centres

REV. Dr. Dickie, Chairman of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of Montreal, told the Railroader this week that, so far as the Board was concerned, its policy, laid down some time ago, was to encourage the use of the public schools as social centres in the evenings, and that a number of different sorts of organizations already made use of the schools under the jurisdiction of the Board.

It seems a pity that this policy is not generally known. Quite a lot of people think that the privilege of use of the schools under the jurisdiction of the Board is something which has to be drawn from the Board with forceps, and, once drawn, is found to be difficult of working, if not wholly discouraging, by reason of censorship and regulation.

Speaking from some small personal experience of obtaining and using school property on behalf of what was the first Fathers' Club in this city, I can say that I found no hindrance to securing the use of school rooms, free of charge. I also found that everyone, from principal to janitor, was willing to encourage the development of the organization. But I did find one difficulty, which was that, except on special occasions which had to be arranged beforehand, the Club was supposed to close at 9.30 p.m. The reason, and a good one, was that the janitor responsible for the care of the school had to get to bed early, as he had to rise early the following morning to see that the school was put in proper shape for the pupils. So far as the Club itself was concerned, it was a weak point of it that men who could

not get to the school until eight or eight-thirty p.m., had to leave an hour or an hour and a half earlier, sometimes when they were just beginning to "loosen up" and enjoy themselves. Another weak point was the scarcity of volunteers who were able and willing to devote time to organization of different forms of recreation and instruction. That, of course, had nothing to do with the Board, but I sometimes thought that the question of the closing of the building at an early hour might have been taken up with a view to finding whether there was some way out of it. I would have taken it up myself had not personal circumstances developed which prevented me from taking any further part in social pleasures.

Although my own experiences were pleasant in relation to the use of the schools as social centres, I had the impression that the experience of others was not so pleasant, and that the whole subject needed looking into. In the school I know best there are now five organizations using the school premises at night, though there is room for lots more, and need for them as counter-attractions to the saloon, the pool-room, the street, the low dancing hall and the lowest type of "movie". I am told that this is an exceptional case, and that other splendid school buildings are not used at all at nights or are used by only one organization.

Rev. Dr. Dickie says that one of the Board's troubles is to find responsible parties to stand sponsor for organizations using the schools, to ensure that the right sorts of organizations are admitted into the schools. This trouble can be sympathized with. My own impression is that the Board's policy with regard to the citizens using the schools at night is not well enough known, and that if it were better known—perhaps some of the citizens might be informed through their own children in the schools—the right parties would turn up and the subject be gone into more fully than before, with a view to making better use than hitherto of the offer of the Board.

K. C.

## The Only Conclusion

THESE three advertisements are taken from the issue of the Montreal Daily Star for January 8th:—

**WINDOW CLEANERS WANTED.**—We pay from \$35 to \$40 a week. Apply New York Window Cleaning Co., Toronto. We will return your fare if you remain with us.

**PROTESTANT TEACHER** wanted for Cote St. George School, County Soulanges, holding first class diploma; salary \$40 per month. Duties to commence at once. Apply to John J. Dewar, St. Telephore, Que.

**PRESSERS** on men's coats; steady work; salary \$40 to \$48 a week. Write Box 1221 Star Office.

Pressers and window cleaners are unionized. Teachers are not. And there is the whole story.

K. C.

Every day the newspapers tell us that the water situation is normal, almost normal, or will be normal within the next few hours. It is far from normal, and has been far from normal ever since the strike started. At the present time whole residential districts are still without water, and the firemen are being seriously handicapped in fighting fires for lack of water pressure in a number of localities. Citizens without water and firemen without proper means to fight fires want more than newspaper assurances that all is beautiful and serene.

The Montreal waterworks' strike may be a blessing in disguise. For one thing, it has shown to the citizens what a dangerous and disgraceful condition the waterworks' system was in, and for which the civic government was directly responsible.

"Brigades of safety" to protect the citizens against strikes of policemen, firemen and other important civic servants are being talked about. The time to talk of them is after other "brigades of safety" have tried their best to prevent conditions which cause strikes. In other words, let us get at causes instead of sticking mustard plasters on effects.



## OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

(From our own Correspondent)

Glasgow, December 27th.

THE moulders' strike is now in to its fifteenth week, with a settlement apparently as far off as ever. It was hoped that this week's conference would have had satisfactory results, but the meeting unexpectedly terminated without any definite decision being arrived at. When the conference adjourned last week the only point in dispute was one which arose after the moulders' representatives had virtually accepted the 5s offer of the employers, and the employers had agreed to open their works on Monday first. The employees then sprung a new demand, relating to a strike which took place at West Bromwich six weeks before the general strike took place, the grievance being that the Workers' Union members were doing moulders' work. The deadlock in the negotiations has arisen over a point which the moulders and the General Laborers' Union centres round the use of a machine in moulding. Plate moulders have not all belonged to the Amalgamated Moulders; many of them have enrolled in the General Laborers' Union. It seems that the trouble now is chiefly that the men's own organisations are at loggerheads. Altogether the situation which has developed has in it the seed of a very bitter contest.

### Horse and Motor Men.

At a meeting of the joint Industrial Council for the road transport industry for Scotland, held in Glasgow, it was reported that the following bodies had now become affiliated:—Greenock Carting Contractors' Association, Glasgow Corporation, Scottish Co-operative Wages Board and Cowdenbeath Carting Association. An offer was made by the employers in respect of payment of overtime, and in regard to holidays, it was agreed that the men be paid for New Year's Day. A sub-committee was appointed to endeavor to come to an agreement on the whole question of overtime and holidays. The employers have made an offer of the following minimum rates of wages:—Steam wagon drivers, £4 5s per week; petrol motor drivers, £4 10s. These are to be the minimum rates for all drivers in Scotland.

### Bakers' Strike Ended.

The determination of the Dundee master bakers to carry on, despite the strike of the operatives, was proved by the elaborate arrangements they had made to get supplies from centres. Glasgow and Perth went to the rescue, and on Tuesday a train-load of 10,

000 loaves arrived in the city from Glasgow. On the same day notices were issued asking for bakers who are members of the Federal Union and willing to work under the national agreement. The names of 40 firms where employment could be obtained on the terms stated were given. Efforts made by the strikers to hold a conference with the employers met with a rebuff, the masters refusing to negotiate on the ground that they were, and had been all along, abiding by the terms of the national agreement. They allege that the Dundee men had not played a fair and square game. The refusal of the masters was intimated to the men at a meeting. Resentment was shown at the employers' attitude, and a good deal of temper was manifested by a section of the meeting. A vote was taken as to whether work would be resumed or not and on the question of the national agreement. There was a majority of close on 200 against returning to work or signing the national agreement. A member of the Executive expressed disappointment at the decision, and informed the strikers that the Executive Council looked upon the action of the Dundee branch as a most disloyal one. He advised the men to return to work, as there could be no settlement effected till then. The masters held a meeting after the decision came to by the men, when several of the largest employers intimated that they had made arrangements with the bulk of their men to have work resumed at once. In view of this the Masters' Association decided to permit a start being made. All the men returned to work the following day.

### Textile Women's Wages

After a one-day strike, the Scottish Textile Workers' Union has secured for the women employed in the Bushy Spinning Mills, Kilwinning, the conversion of war bonuses into wages and advance of 20 per cent on the total. The women employed in the Wilson Muslin Factory, Bridgeton, also struck for similar terms, but have resumed pending negotiations.

### Drapery Trade Reforms

Retail drapery employees in Glasgow, to the number of 3,000 are agitating for a new wages scale, ranging from 20s to 100s per week, according to position. Other reforms asked for include a 44-hour week and twelve days' yearly holidays, with pay, plus all statutory holidays. The employers have agreed to meet the union officials. Failing a settlement, mass action will be taken. A few firms have already conceded the demands.

In connection with the demand of the Glasgow waitresses for recognition of the Federation of Women Workers, one firm has offered the girls in its employment an advance of 2/- a week on condition that they leave the union. Two girls, it is alleged, have been dismissed from the same place for union activity. The Trades Council will give the waitresses the fullest assistance in their fight for a living wage.

### Checkweighers' Action.

The Lanarkshire Miners' Union has sent a telegram to the Coal Controller asking him to arrange a meeting to obviate a difficulty which has arisen at the Carron Company's Cadder Pit. The company has instituted legal proceedings for the removal of two checkweighmen, who are alleged to have refused to work during the railway strike, the men alleging blacklegging. The miners have struck work in sympathy. The trial has been postponed till January, but the Executive has sanctioned the continuance of the strike.

### Clyde's New Record

Surprisingly large have been the tonnage and engineering output of the Clyde shipyards for the past twelve months. The totals are second only to those in 1913. In the early days of 1919, it was anticipated that this year would see the establishment of a new record, but it became apparent, as time progressed, that not only was this impossible, but that in all probability, there would be a decrease on the figures for a number of previous years. A great deal of labor and plant was devoted to the execution of refits and reconditioning mercantile vessels commandeered during the war period by the Admiralty, and the totals have also suffered as the result of the scrapping of partially-constructed war vessels. Had all the labor and engineering plant applied in the reversal from war to mercantile purposes been wholly available for constructional work, a record for the Clyde would undoubtedly have been set up. As it is, that record has only been postponed for a twelvemonth, for about a million of tons of shipping work—the largest in the history of the Clyde—is still on hand. The total number of vessels this year was 406, their tonnage aggregating 645,374, and the individual horsepower of machinery produced was 1,537,781. Last year's tonnage, revised to current methods of computation, was 532,094, and in the record year—1913—the figure was 856,796 tons. Other good years were

1912 and 1911, when the tonnage totalled 640,529 tons and 630,583 tons respectively.

### Oatmeal Industry

A measure of protection for the oatmeal millers was suggested at a meeting of the Edinburgh district of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture this week. It was explained that the position of the oatmeal millers would be serious if some guarantee was not given. Owing to the action of the Government, oatmeal was being brought into the country and sold at about 15s per sack cheaper than was the home produced article. If this state of affairs went on for another two years the oatmeal industry in this country would be ruined. It was suggested that the Government might take steps to make this a key industry and give it a measure of protection. It was agreed that if the Oatmeal Millers' Association prepared a considerable report on the matter, the Chamber would take it up.

### Milk Municipalisation

A deputation from the United Trades and Labor Council of Dundee waited on the Corporation's Law and Finance Committee this week, with an appeal to the Town Council to support the municipalisation of the milk trade. Doubt was expressed during the discussion as to the exact nature and scope of the Government's proposed Bill, and a motion submitted by Baillie Spence, that the Government be approached with the view of obtaining powers to deal with both the production and the distribution of the milk supply, was adopted.

### Pay More for Tea.

The price of tea and coffee in the Glasgow restaurants and tea-rooms will be raised from 2½d to 3d per cup from New Year's Day onward. A general agreement has been arrived at among the proprietors to this effect. The advance is attributed to the increased cost of conducting the establishments.

### Shipment of Coal

The Minister of Labor announces that negotiations have been proceeding between representatives of the railway companies, dock authorities, collieries and coal shippers, and the National Transport Workers' Federation and the National Union of Railwaymen, on the subject of wages and hours of labor of the men employed in connection with the shipment of coal, and at the request of the parties, the Minister of Labor has appointed a Committee of Inquiry to investigate the matter, so far as regards the hours of labor.

James Gibson.

### INGENUITY

Guest.—“Waiter, this steak is like leather and the knife is dull.”  
Waiter.—“You might strop the knife on the steak.”—Gargoyle.

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## Increased Production by Taking Labor's Advice

Reports in the public press that a large measure of control had been turned over to the workers in government arsenals, and especially in that at Rock Island, Ill., have given rise of late to widespread discussion. One would think, to read some of the published accounts, that a full-fledged Soviet system had crept in under the very wings of the American eagle. An article on the subject contributed to **Industrial Management**, by the Secretary of War himself ought to set these fears at rest. We learn from Secretary Baker that the Government has simply been taking the advice of its employees—a very good thing for any employer to do, and nothing new, of course, although it is commonly done informally rather than systematically. The result, we are told, has been more than satisfactory, and Uncle Sam now has, at Rock Island and elsewhere, a body of contented helpers, in complete sympathy with their superior officers. Writes Mr. Baker:

"Before the war, the harness-shop of Rock Island Arsenal was in a very deplorable condition from the point of view of production and efficient operation. A condition of antagonism and distrust between the management and the employees had grown up because of many familiar reasons, principal among which were the attempted introduction of so-called scientific management methods, and the breaking of promises made to the men that any increase in production brought about by their ingenuity, resourcefulness, and ability would not be used against them for the purpose of reducing the increase in wages which they secured thereby. As a result of this the men found that their only re-

course was to place a deliberate limit on production; thus the aforementioned resourcefulness, ingenuity, and ability of the men, instead of being directed into constructive channels for the purpose of improving production and methods of manufacture, were diverted into methods for limiting production. Their experience had taught them that when their inventive ability was used constructively it worked against them because it reduced either their earnings, or resulted sooner or later in discharges or layoffs of their members. The normal progress in the purpose for which the shop existed was consistently retarded or limited.

"When the United States entered the war and it became very apparent that maximum production was of the greatest importance, the men in the leather-shop voluntarily agreed to take off the limits which they had placed on productivity, providing, however, that piece-work prices were not reduced without their consent. They felt constrained to insist upon this feature, since not only had their past experience taught them that they stood a serious chance of having their earnings cut, but also that they might have to put up with such subterfuge as changes in operation for the purpose of providing arguments to the management to back up their insistence of reducing prices. Thus it came to pass that on a very vital matter, namely, the establishment of piece-work prices, the men were given the basic privilege of participating in the process whereby these prices were determined. This in reality was the first recognition of the principle of democracy as applied to the manufacturing industry conducted by Rock Island Arsenal, a government-owned and controlled institution.

"The next thing which they developed concerned itself with the policy which the new officer who was placed in charge of the harness-shop employed with regard to the particular production and labor problems existing. This officer came from a firm which had a very bad reputation with labor, and consequently was immediately regarded by the employees with extreme suspicion. The men, however, with clear-cut frankness, went to him and advised

that they were willing to co-operate to their fullest capacity provided they found him square, and provided he would not hold it against them that they were members of a legitimate labor organization. It remains to the credit of this officer that he accepted the situation on this basis, apparently realizing what it meant from the point of view of production. He was ready to agree to anything which in his estimation would bring about improvement in mutual confidence and good-will between the shop management and the workers. The situation eventually so developed that the employees were permitted to select their own foremen, a very interesting and worthy enlargement of the principle of democracy already mentioned. Consequently, when the committee previously referred to, together with the democratically selected foremen of the shop, began to function co-operatively with the management of the shop, a very remarkable change in the atmosphere manifested itself. The men had confidence in what was going on; they stepped into the breach and began to produce. Old grievances, misunderstandings, suspicions were all cleared away like a fog before a breeze, and everybody began to breathe freely and act enthusiastically.

"For instance, it has been the custom in the past to reimburse individuals for suggestions which resulted in improved processes of manufacture. However, since these new relationships came into existence the men refused to accept these bonuses, first personally requesting that they be paid to a central beneficiary fund, but finally agreeing that even this was not the fairest arrangement and deciding not to accept any bonus for any purpose whatsoever. They even went so far, as long as they enjoyed a genuine participation in the determination of shop-processes and piece-work prices, to recommend reductions in these prices when earnings became excessively out of proportion due to improved methods of manufacture, always trying to be consistent in one direction as well as another.

"Many other specific instances might be cited to illustrate the benefits which automatically resulted as a consequence of the new spirit which came into existence... The result was a most remarkable increase in production carried on by contented and willing men....

"The War Department has encouraged the formation of committees of its employees in the arsen-

als, which committees consult freely with the men and act in an advisory capacity to the management on questions of shop conditions, production, and wages; by this means hearty co-operation has been secured, and complete sympathy between the management and the employees has resulted. The authority of the management, however, is wholly diminished by the advisory relation of the committees—the management of the plants is undisturbed, the Government operates them, the authority of the commanding officer is as complete as it has always been.

"The whole purpose of the steps which have been taken is to bring about understanding and good feeling, but not in any sense to part with either the responsibility or the authority of the Government in the management of these industrial enterprises."

## The Reward of Virtue

Men and women who believe that the modern system of society rewards people in accordance with their virtues should read the following appeal from a recent issue of the New York Tribune:—

"Nine years' wear out of one suit and the garment still neat and trim looking, that is Mrs. D—'s record. One pair of shoes apiece for herself and the two girls, and two pairs for the boy are her largest annual expenditures. By means of such careful economy and steady labor she has managed to bring up her three children ever since Mr. — died suddenly, nine years ago. Now, however, cardiac trouble has set in and she can no longer work hard.

"Still, she keeps her tiny home clean and neat and trains her children to grow up into fine men and women and honest citizens. But her splendid courage and determination cannot enable her to do any labor, and the doctors say she must have absolute rest. The Charity Organization Society asks for \$200 to assist her through the next six months."

Mrs. D— has all the virtues which our ardent social moralists demand. She is careful, economical, a steady worker; she is devoted to her family; she seeks to make honest citizens of her children; she is courageous; determined and self-sacrificing to the last degree. She has exhibited the highest social virtues; her reward is cardiac trouble.

This is a single case,—one of tens of thousands that proves beyond the possibility of question that there is no necessary connection between virtue and income. Vice has its rewards and crime its profits. The most virtuous person, lacking special training or lacking the power that comes with organization, is trodden under foot by our ruthless industrial system, which gives the good things of life to the greedy—not to the virtuous.—SCOTT NEARING.

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# What Australia Is Doing For Her Soldiers

(Special to the Railroader)

AUSTRALIA has been confronted with as hard a task as ourselves in providing for the re-establishment of her veterans in civil life. In one respect it is slightly more difficult, her enlistments being relatively greater in proportion to population, but on the other hand, owing to the greater acceptance of the ideal of public ownership, both the Federal and State Governments are employers of labor on a large scale, and have, therefore, a greater control over the employment situation. Defence is, as in Canada, a federal or as it called there, a Commonwealth function, but it happens that the Australian States have retained for themselves greater powers than our provinces and possess the greater number of agencies necessary for the rehabilitation of the soldiers.

As here, the system now followed is the result of a gradual growth and the original machinery for dealing the problem has largely been discarded. A beginning was made in 1915, when, at the request of the Parliamentary War Committee, State War Councils, composed of representatives of the Federal and States Parliaments, of Chambers of Commerce and Manufacturers, and of organized Labor were set up in 1915 and were able to do good work in finding employment for discharged veterans and providing assistance for them and their dependents. From these bodies, which were purely honorary, grew the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Fund in 1916. This fund was like our Patriotic Fund, to be raised primarily by voluntary contributions in cash or kind, and to be supplemented by grants from the Federal and State Governments. But when launching the first conscription campaign in 1916, the Hughes Government announced its intention of raising a repatriation fund of £10,000,000 by a special wealth levy, and appeals for voluntary subscriptions were summarily ended. The Trustees who managed this repatriation fund met with many difficulties and complications arising from the divided control between the Commonwealth and the States, and advised the desirability of securing fuller control for the central government.

Accordingly, at a Conference held in January, 1917, of Federal and States Ministers, the following resolution was agreed to:

"That with the exception of land settlement and advances to be made against improvements and for other purpose under the laws regulating State institutions, the

entire question of the reestablishment of returned soldiers and sailors generally be made the concern of a commonwealth authority."

Pursuant to this decision legislation was passed creating a Repatriation Department of the Federal Government which commenced operations on April 8, 1918, under Senator Millen, Minister of Defence.

By the Repatriation Bill, there was set up a Repatriation Commission at Melbourne, Repatriation Boards at each State Capital, and District Repatriation Committees, whose scope coincided usually with local government areas. Besides these, State and District Soldiers' Industrial Committees were formed. All members of the Commission and of each board and committee are unpaid. It is provided that of the seven members who comprise the Commission and each of the State Boards at least two shall be representative of the returned soldiers and sailors. The chief executive is a Deputy-Controller in each state.

The keynote of the Department's aims was struck by Senator Millen in an open letter which he addressed to the men coming home. "Australia is determined that every returned soldier shall have a full opportunity to establish himself again in civil life", he said. To care for the wounded and sick, there have been erected and equipped houses, hotels, sanatoria, workshops and training establishments. All who are permanently incapacitated will be kept in state hotels or maintained in the homes of relatives or friends with a proper allowance for sustenance. The pension scale is on a slightly less liberal scale than the Canadian, but it should be remembered that the cost of living, which, before the war, was little greater than ours, has only risen 30 p.c. in Australia since 1914 as against 130 p.c. here.

For the partially or temporarily incapacitated, vocational training is provided. They are classed in three groups. The less seriously disabled who can be expected to regain normal efficiency after a short training, are looked after in the factories and workshops of public-spirited employers, their earnings being subsidized to bring them up to the standard rate. The more seriously incapacitated, whose present condition unfits them for the ordinary labor market, are sent to technical classes with a curriculum specially designed to meet their cases. Men who have no prospect of facing the battle of open in-

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dustrial competition, are provided for in national workshops.

In regard to men who are discharged fit, the Commission has acknowledged two guiding principles:—

(1) That the true purpose of repatriation is to secure the reestablishment of returned men in the industrial life of the community to the fullest extent that circumstances permit; and

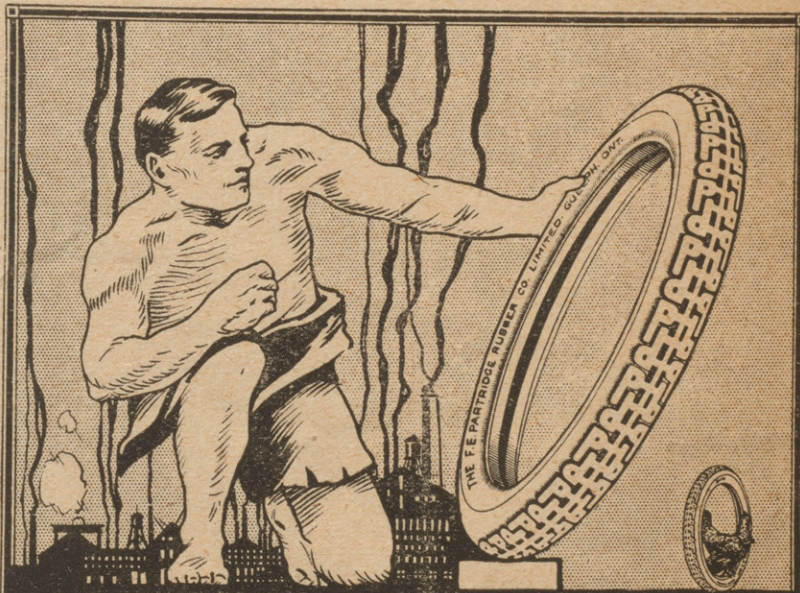
(2) That as a soldier abandoned his civil calling to serve the State it is the duty of the State to maintain him until opportunity of such reestablishment is secured.

For this purpose grants may be made for equipment or for tools up to £10, which, after twelve months, become the property of the grantee,

and sums up to £100, or in certain circumstances up to £250, may be lent for the purchase of businesses, plant, etc. If the assistance is by way of loan, interest at 5 p.c. must be paid on the amount in excess of £50 till it is repaid.

While awaiting employment or taking courses of vocational training, sustenance allowances, (graded so as to discourage malingering) are paid. The Department also provides opportunities for completing interrupted apprenticeships and grants subsistence equal to the difference between the wages of an apprentice and a qualified artisan. If men are anxious to change their occupation, they can be given a complete training in whatever new calling they select. There is no attempt to define reinstatement merely as restoration to a position similar to that occupied before enlistment.

In addition to the regular pensions, which range from £2.11 (\$12.00) per week for a widow and one child to £3.5 (\$15.00) for a widow and five children, special grants up to £25 may be made to war widows in necessitous circumstances by way of gift, and as much as £150 may be advanced to secure discharges of mortgages. Special privileges have also been secured for the education of the children of soldiers who have fallen. The Commission has also formulated a War Service Homes Scheme which is the particular pet of Senator Millan. It has a double purpose, to promote extensive building operations for the direct benefit of veterans, and to provide funds for applicants who desire



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to build for themselves or to acquire houses already built. The maximum sum which can be advanced is £700 and the Commonwealth Bank, a most prosperous institution, co-operates in financing the scheme. The Commission is encouraging the creation of industrial centres in the country with a view to checking the tendency to overcrowding into a few great urban communities, which has become a greater evil in Australia even than here.

It was inevitable that land settlement schemes should receive great attention. It happened, however, that the only land controlled by the Commonwealth Government was in the Northern Territory and Papua, both quite unsuited for white settlement. So it was agreed that the Commonwealth should provide the funds and the States secure the land. In January, 1917, a Soldier Settlement Board, comprising one Minister from each State and one from the Commonwealth, was set up to coordinate policy. In all the States, save Queensland and West Australia, the local government has been compelled to buy land and develop railway facilities ere it could proceed with any plans. Queensland and Australia had some free land available. The holdings of the soldier settlers, which include many blocks of irrigated lands, comprise land suitable for sheep, for wheat and dairying, vine culture and market gardening, the keeping of poultry and pigs, etc.

The Commonwealth advances through the States sums up to a maximum of £625 (\$3,000) for each settler. The States are also lending money to construct railways which will give better access to markets and factories which will dispose of various products grown by the settlers. Important experiments are being carried out with group settlements. They remove the drawbacks of rural isolation and provide opportunities for the co-operative purchase, sale and production of goods as well as making initial supervision and instruction infinitely easier.

Comprehensive courses of practical training on government experimental farms are also available for the prospective settler. The main idea of the agricultural policy of the department

is to add to the number of successful primary producers in the Commonwealth. Up to June 30, 1919, over 4,000 soldiers had been settled on the land, and Senator Millen expected that the number would reach 17,000 before the year ended.

The Repatriation Department has now surmounted its maximum period of strain. All save a small minority of the Australian Army have been transported home, and despite a serious seamen's strike and a drought of terrible severity which caused enormous losses to farmers, not more than 4 p.e. were unprovided for in September.

Financing of the various schemes presents certain difficulties. War pensions already reach an annual charge of £5,230,000 (\$25,000,000) and \$6,000,000 had on June 30, 1919, been distributed by way of gift. The War Homes scheme is expected to cost £50,000,000 and between £30,000,000 and £40,000,000 will be required for the land settlement schemes. Much of this money will be advanced by way of loan and will eventually be returned, but to procure it in the meantime is demanding special efforts by the Commonwealth Treasury.

However, the Australian Finance Minister has been beset by none of the tender scruples of Sir Thomas White. The wealth and population of Australia are each estimated at five-eighths of Canada's. In the first year of our income tax, about \$10,000,000 was levied through it, and we are told it was impossible to set up efficient machinery at once. But Australia took by income tax \$20,000,000 in its initial year, and is now taking nearly \$40,000,000 every year as well as levying a federal land tax and succession duties. Australia contemplates a much greater expenditure per capita of population on the repatriation of her veterans than Canada as represented by her present administration does, but she has had the foresight and courage to provide the necessary funds by a decently democratic system of taxation which our rulers have so far avoided as the plague. During the recent election campaign large additional gratuities were promised the veterans by both sides, but it remains to be seen if they will actually be given.

## The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

### Its Only Aim Is The Welfare of The Masses.

The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the men who make its laws, and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada exists to see to it that the workers by hand and brain are directly represented in the law-making bodies of the Dominion; to find, train and elect the right men of our own class in order to secure the kind of legislation that will protect and advance the interests of the workers.

It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges, and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

#### WE PLEDGE OURSELVES:—

To support all municipal, provincial and federal educational plans where the evident purpose is to raise the standard of education in enlightened and progressive ways; to present truthfully and fearlessly through the medium of Fifth Sunday Meetings and our own press, the "Canadian Railroader", the latest and most important political, social and industrial developments;

To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

To advocate freedom of speech and of the press, and a law compelling all newspapers and periodicals to publish in all issues a complete list of shareholders and bondholders.

"The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada" is financed entirely by its members who contribute \$2 a year in membership fees. If a local has been established in your city \$1 remains in the local treasury and the other dollar is sent by the local organization to our Dominion Headquarters, 60 Dandurand Building, Montreal, Que. In case no local has been established in your community, send the membership fee of \$2 directly to Dominion Headquarters.

The funds accumulating in the Dominion Headquarters are used for political and educational propaganda; the development of the organization; the preparation of pamphlets and leaflets and the financing of the various political campaigns where favorable opportunities develop, to elect our candidates. The treasurer is under bond and the books are audited by a firm of accountants.

An application blank will be found below. Merely fill out the application blank, buy a postal order for \$2 and send it to Dominion Headquarters. Your membership card will be forwarded by return mail. Join this great organization in the interests of education and clean politics. Today is the day and this is the hour. Become a member now.

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## Labor Minister Makes Proposals For Unifying Labor Laws For All Canada.

Following up his recent address at the McGill Canadian Club, Hon. Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, has made proposals to the Quebec Provincial Government for the appointment of a provincial committee, with representatives from the Labor Department of the Provincial Government, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, representing the employers, and the Trades and Labor Council, representing the unions to join with representatives from other provinces in an inter-provincial conference, probably to be held at Ottawa, with a view to unifying the laws regarding labor throughout the Dominion, so as to secure the application of the Industrial Disputes Act not only to Federal but to Provincial and municipal disputes.

In his letter to Premier Gouin, the Minister of Labor sets forth that the whole proposition for the interprovincial conference had grown from a resolution at the National Industrial Conference at Ottawa last September, to the following effect:

"Resolved—That the advantage of uniformity in the laws relating to the welfare of those engaged in industrial work in the several provinces of the Dominion of Canada be brought to the attention of the Government of Canada and Governments of the various provinces respectively; and that this National Industrial Conference suggest the following as a means toward the end desired:

"The appointment of a board composed as follows:

"1—As respects the Dominion Government. (a) A representative of the Government; (b) a representative of the employers; (c) a representative of the employees."

Similar representation was recommended from each of the provinces, the resolution proceeding:

"And that the Dominion Government be requested to ask the Governments of each of the provinces to select, or have selected representatives of the provinces, as above set forth."

It is stated that most of the other provinces of the Dominion have already been communicated with by Hon. Gideon Robertson, with regard to sending delegates to an interprovincial conference for the unification of laws affecting labor, and have already named representatives of the three parties, Government, employees and employers.

## High-Souled Journalism

SOME newspaper publishers in the United States and Canada are taking a high-souled view of the journalistic profession these days. Journalists, they say, have a great mission in life, a grave responsibility to the dear peepul. Their is the task of courageously, truthfully and without bias presenting all the news that is fit to print. Theirs is the duty to keep themselves free from the control or other influence of any class or interest in order that the citizens of the country shall be safeguarded. All of which readeth fine.

The truth is, however, that journalists generally rarely require any lessons in ethics from publishers; that, on the contrary, some publishers might well profit by the ethical examples set by their own journalistic employees.

The great majority of journalists are men and women working earnestly and in good faith, if not always in good judgment, as members of what they try to make an honorable profession, fully conscious of their duties and responsibilities to the public, generally living from hand to mouth, yet just as generally impervious to the temptations of bribery and corruption that come their way. They want to be fair and just and truthful, and they are these things as far as it is possible for them to be, co-incidental with the preservation of the jobs on which their economic destinies, and the destinies of those they love, depend; for, after all, they are only employees. Frequently they are fair and just and truthful at considerable sacrifice of self-interest, and without hope that the dear peepul whose interests they seek to defend will ever hear anything about their sacrifice.

This being the case, what, then, does this sudden splurge of high-souled views from publishers mean? How much of it is as high-souled as it claims to be, and how much of it is just plain humbug? How much of it is due to a burning passion for the interests of the dear peepul, and the noble profession of journalism, and how much of it is hypocritical snivelling with an ulterior motive?

A notable fact is that most of it comes to light in direct or side-swipe relation to newswriters unions of the International Typographical Union. Some American and Canadian journalists, following the awful example of about 6,000 of their British and Australasian comrades, have lowered their professional dignity by becoming part and parcel of organized labor—good heavens! They have mingled with the common herd; gone clean to the demnition bow-wows! They have, we are told, become fierce partisans of a class movement and this is ruinous to the conduct of virtuous journalism,

to a fair, free and fearless press, such as, the publishers assure us, with hands on heart and eyeballs upward turned, we have always had in these sweet lands of liberty and democracy.

What is the real creed of some of these publishers, not as expressed in their carefully-prepared words for all to read, but taken, as they must be, together with the record of their daily deeds? Put into words it would probably be something like this:

"We want to kill these newswriters' unions. We know that they are of the ordinary legal variety, but they would take from us some of the control of wages and working conditions. Our autocracy would be endangered, and that would never do. Instead of serfs, our journalists would be just as free as railroaders and plumbers. The only kind of free press we want is the press with all the freedom on our side; it would be frightfully embarrassing to us if journalists were able to talk freely without having their heads loppe off. But we must be careful of the manner in which we attack newswriters unions. They are allied to organized labor, and organized labor has a nasty knack of returning a kick with a blacksmith's wallop. We shall harass and persecute the unionists in our own offices, which is our Heaven-sent privilege, and we shall try to take from under them the power of organized labor, without which we would have shown them where they got off at some time ago. We may even say how much we appreciate organized labor generally, but that in journalism, of course, it is a different matter. So let's talk ethics, and also support non-union organizations which we can control.

"Ethics may lull organized labor to sleep (especially as we don't intend to let union journalists present their side of the case in our newspapers), and, as for the general public, well, they like to be buncoed by fine phrases, anyway.

"We do not say so in our editorial columns, of course, but really we believe in Prussianism, Czarism, the Star Chamber, the Inquisition, the Strong Arm and the Big Stick. We like the Inquisition particularly, because there is a show of conscience, harmonizing with our parade of ethics, that although we are using painful methods on the union heretics, the torture is really for the good of their own souls."

So if you happen to come across newspaper publicity on journalistic ethics requiring that journalists shall not belong to a union, consider whether the newspapers doth not protest too much.

K. C.

## NORTHCLIFFE GIVES WRITERS FIVE DAY WEEK; APPROVES UNIONS

All regular editors, special writers and reporters of the London Times, Daily Mail, and Evening News are to have two days each week for rest or recreation under the "five-day working week," which Lord Northcliffe is introducing in his newspaper properties.

The writing staffs of the Times and Daily Mail have already been reorganized on this basis, and the system is to be extended to the Evening News.

The same system is to be arranged in the near future for all others on these papers, including all members of the business staffs and the printing and mechanical forces. This is not possible at present on account of the scarcity of skilled labor.

Lord Northcliffe's view is that all men, especially those engaged in brain work, attain their highest efficiency by this division of work and recreation and by a complete change at these regular and frequent intervals.

Speaking last month to the President of the British National Union of Journalists, Lord Northcliffe said:

"I congratulate the Union on the success of its latest effort on behalf of the journalists of London. I say this as a warm supporter of the principles on which the Union is founded, and of many of the policies which it is pursuing. Its constitution is rightly framed and its organization is the best instrument of progress for the working journalists of this country. The main points of the Union's programme—better pay, shorter hours and longer holidays—have my unreserved approval.

"I believe in trade unions and like them. I find it better to deal with organized labor than with individuals. Journalists need a trade union as much as doctors, barristers and solicitors, who have long had them. The National Union is founded on right principles because it consists solely of working journalists who are not proprietors. It is futile to endeavor to blend the two."

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